

waveform at the input results in a linear modulation of the laser drive current at the output. Therefore, the low impedance laser diode 301, being essentially a current-controlled device that linearly converts input current to output optical power, is driven by the voltage controlled power amplifier Q3 which resides in the low impedance power amplifier stage of the laser driver 300. The input and the output of the power amplifier Q3 are AC-coupled, and the output to the laser diode 301 is provided with an appropriate dc bias current such that the output modulation of the power amplifier Q3 causes the laser drive current to swing from nearly off to the desired output power with an optical output power extinction ratio of at least 10:1. In designing the bias circuit, consideration may be given to selecting minimum, maximum, and average power levels for the laser diode 301, as bias current causes the laser to operate at a selected average power level, and the wideband signal modulation will cause the laser output to vary between the power level extremes.

A marked up version showing the changes made to the specification is attached hereto.

IN THE DRAWINGS

Please correct Figures 9B and 10C as indicated. The corrections address typographical errors in the figures; no new matter has been added. Replacement sheets 9 and 13 are submitted herewith.